DETAILED ACTION

Applicant amends claims 1, 9 and 26.

Claims 1-27 are presented for examination.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12

October 2010 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 17 September 2010, with respect to

the claim rejections have been fully considered. In light of those Remarks and the

amendments via the Examiner's Amendments, *infra*, they have been found persuasive

and the prior grounds of rejection have been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Mr. Cory C. Bell on 03 November 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

9. (Currently Amended) A device-to-device authentication method for authenticating when devices on a network are connected within a certain range, comprising:

physically connecting a removable mediating device to a first physical mediating device interface of a first device, wherein either the first device reads information from the removable mediating device or the first device stores the information in the removable mediating device, when the mediating device is physically connected to the first mediating device interface;

physically connecting the removable mediating device to a second physical mediating device interface of a second device, wherein either the first device reads information from the removable mediating device or the first device stores the information in the removable mediating device, when the mediating device is physically connected to the first mediating device interface;

storing information in the removable mediating device;

reading the information from the removable mediating device;

receiving a request for authentication over the network;

authenticating, base on the information from the removable mediating device, that the first device and the second device are connected within the certain range when it is determined that a time between the physical connection of the mediating device to the first physical mediating interface and the physical connection of the mediating

device to the second physical mediating interface is within a predetermined period of

time; and

allowing the first device to use content when the first device is authenticated.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable medium storing a

program for causing a computer to execute a method for authenticating whether or not

devices on a network are connected within a certain scope, the method comprising:

<u>physically connecting a removable mediating device to a first physical mediating</u>

<u>device interface of a first device, wherein either the first device reads information from</u>

<u>the removable mediating device or the first device stores the information in the</u>

<u>removable mediating device, when the mediating device is physically connected to the</u>

<u>first mediating device interface;</u>

physically connecting the removable mediating device to a second physical

mediating device interface of a second device, wherein either the first device reads

information from the removable mediating device or the first device stores the

information in the removable mediating device, when the mediating device is physically

connected to the first mediating device interface;

receiving a request for authentication over the network;

authenticating, based on information stored in [[a]] the removable mediating

device, that [[a]] the first device and [[a]] the second device are connected within a

certain scope when it is determined that a time between the physical connection of the

mediating device to the first device and the physical connection of the mediating device

to the second device is within a predetermined period of time, and

allowing the first device to use content when the first device is authenticated.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-16, 26 and 27 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art, alone or in combination, does not teach nor suggests:

A device-to-device authentication system for authenticating when devices on a

network are connected within a certain range, comprising: a first device comprising: a

first mediating device interface for physically connecting a removable mediating device,

wherein the first device reads information from the removable mediating device or the

first device stores the information in the removable mediating device when the

mediating device is physically connected to the first mediating device interface, a

second device comprising: a second mediating device interface for physically

connecting the removable mediating device, wherein the second device reads the

information from the removable mediating device or the second device stores the

information in the removable mediating device when the mediating device is physically

connected to the second mediating device, a network interface unit configured to

receive a request for authentication over the network, and a local environment

management unit configured to authenticate, based on the information from the

mediating device, that the first device and the second device are connected within the

certain range when it is determined that a time between the physical connection of the

mediating device to the first mediating interface and the physical connection of the

mediating device to the second mediating interface is within a predetermined period of

time, wherein the first device can use content when the first device is authenticated.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure. See PTOL-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DARREN SCHWARTZ whose telephone number is (571)270-3850. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am-5pm EST, Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on (571)272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. B. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 2435

/Beemnet W Dada/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2435